REMARKS

With the foregoing amendments, claims 1-15 are pending and at issue in the above identified patent application. Of the claims at issue, claim 10 is independent, and claims 10-15 are allowed. Claims 1-9 are cancelled without prejudice, thereby preserving all rights to file any continuing application. In view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 7 was rejected as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 moot.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8, and 9 were rejected as anticipated by Hutchinson (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,064) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Because claims 1-9 are cancelled without prejudice, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 was rejected as being unpatentable in view of Hutchinson and "routine skill in the art" under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Because claims 1-9 are cancelled without prejudice, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot.
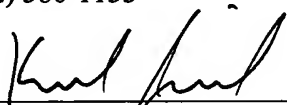
Conclusion

In view of the above, pending claims 10-15 in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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